(b) the manner in which Government can solve the problem of diminishing farm lands due to increasing population; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to solve the shrinkage of agricultural land and degradation of the lands/forests in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) In a recent paper on "Food Security in Asia", Dr. Mehboob Hussain, an Economist of International Rice Research Institute, Phillipines, Manila has stated that as the demand for food grows with the increase in population, many land scarce countries will find it difficult to sustain the gains they have made in achieving food security. He has also stated that rapid population growth is putting pressure on the supply of key crops including rice.

(b) and (c) Various steps/initiated to reduce shrinkage of agriculture land and increased production of foodgrains include:—

(i) Increasing productivity of foodgrains per unit area of land by increased use of inputs like improved seeds fertilisers etc.

(ii) Conjuctive use of surface and ground-water potential to increase the area under irrigation to facilitate crop intensification.

(iii) Use/Introduction of hybrid varieties of crops.

(iv) Use of Integrated Pest Management to avoid damage to crops.

(v) Conservation of forest/Agricultural land by discouraging its use for non-forest and non-agricultural activities like human settlements, industrial uses, etc.

(vi) Development of wastelands/degraded forest lands through tree plantation.

(vii) Cultivation of fuel and fodder trees through Agro-forestry and Farmforestry under Social forestry.

(viii) Treatment of alkaline and saline soils.

(ix) Stress on development of watershed and command areas.

(x) Discouraging shifting cultivation.

(xi) Adopting soil conservation measures especially in hilly areas.

Setting up of National Water Project

2599. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any National Water Project under the National Water Management Scheme for implementation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas of agricultural land likely to be included under the above Scheme, district-wise;

(c) the estimated cost involved therein; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Statement indicating the details of nine sub-projects approved under the National Water Management Project for implementation in Gujarat is enclosed. (See below)

Statement

Setting up of National Water Project

Name of the Dist.-Sub-project rict	*Date of approval*	*Culturable command Area (Ha.)*	*Esitmated Cost (Rs. Lakhs)*	*Cumulative Expenditure upto 3/95 (Rs. Lakhs)*	*Targetted Date** of completion of scheme*
1	2	3	4	5	6
Dharoi (Mehsana)	1/93	12,980	505	44.0	31.3.1996
Meshawo (Sabarkantha)	1/93	6,880	248	17.6	31.3.1996
Sasoi (Jamnagar)	7/94	4,075	107	*	31.3.1996

1	2	3	4	5	6
Patadungari (Panchmahals)	7/94	5,072	129	*	31.3.1996
Gondali (Rajkot)	7/94	1,417	46	*	31.3.1996
Jojawa Wadhwana (Vadodara)	7/94	6,750	174	*	31.3.1996
Malan (Bhavnagar)	7/94	3,385	116	*	31.3.1996
Hiran (Junagarh)	7/94	2,630	90	*	31.3.1996
Kharod (Kuchchh)	7/94	1,296	54	*	31.3.1996
Total:	44,485	1469	61.6		

*No expenditure could be incurred by the State Government for want of concurrence of the World Bank.

**The credit assistance under NWMP has closed on 31.3.1995. It is planned to undertake the second phase of NWMP, preappraisal of which for the present is targetted for early, 1996.

Defective limit Switched of the Cranes operating at IISCO

2600. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the limit switches of the cranes operating at IISCO Burnpur plant are out of order and it may cause a heavy accident at any movement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINITERY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEVE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Over Hoist limit switches of cranes operating at IISCO, Burnpur unit are in working order. Whenever any limit switches become defective during working, these are immediately replaced/ repaired.

Recovery of Dues by DDA

2601. SHRI KISHAN KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has recently lowered the rate of interest on the panel amount to be recovered as pending house payment dues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount as on date, due to be recovered from the flat/plot owners by DDA; and

(d) what concrete measures Government propose to recover the outstanding Government dues form the flat/plot owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. DDA has launched a scheme called "DDA Hire Purchases Penalty Relief Scheme1995. The scheme will be operative from 1.8.95 to 31.1.96.

Under this scheme, the allottees of hire purchase instalments under General Housing Schemes, New Pattern Residential Scheme and Ambedkar Awas Yojana will be charged simple interest in the following manner for the period of default in making payment of instalment(s) provided they clear up-todate instalments with interest:

(a) For default/delayed payment(s) upto 30 equated monthly instalments, simple interest 18% p.a. shall be charged.

(b) For default/delayed payment beyond 30 equated monthly instalments, simple interest @ 24% p.a. shall be charged.

fairs to pay monthly instalment for consecutive six months, the hire purchase tenancy arrangements are liable to be terminated, and can be restored agaisnt the payment of restoration charged at p.w Scheme, no restoration charges are payable unless hire purchase tenancy arrangements have already been formally terminated.

(c) DDA has reported that the total amount recoverable from the allottees of the flats is as under:-

(a) General Housing Schemes : Rs.7.00 crores (approx) upto September, 1993.

(b) NPRS : Rs. 391. 96 crores (approx) upto March, 1993.

The Relief Scheme is not applicable to plot holders.

(d) DDA has taken serveral steps to recover the outstanding dues from the allottees of flats.